

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cooking utensil for cooking a food by using predetermined heating means, said cooking utensil comprising:

maintenance time setting means capable of arbitrarily setting a time for executing maintenance; and

informing means for informing the execution time set by the maintenance time setting means.

2. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a standard date set in a predetermined cycle based on a calendar function has expired.

3. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the operating time of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard time.

4. A cooking utensil as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

5. A cooking utensil as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the execution time can be set individually for each maintenance item.

6. A cooking utensil as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5,

wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

7. A cooking utensil as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

8. A cooking utensil as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

9. A cooking utensil as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

10. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 9, wherein, after the predetermined sign has been displayed, a maintenance item can be displayed through a predetermined operation of a switch provided on the operating panel.